

# Term Paper Think Piece

*due Friday, February 27*

Good term papers don't happen overnight; they require extensive research, writing, and editing. And so, midway through this course you are to write a "think piece": a preliminary investigation into the issue you intend to research further in your term paper. The purpose of this think piece is: (a) to give you a head-start on your term paper, so you're not rushing to put it all together last minute; and (b) to give you some early feedback on your ideas, so that you have some guidance on how to develop them in the weeks to come.

## *Guidelines*

Your think piece should be **approximately 1000 words in length** (i.e., 4 double-spaced pages). It should read like the first 1000 words of a 3000- to 4000-word term paper, or like a standalone 1000-word essay which still leaves room for further expansion. **It should not be an outline of your term paper.** It should present an original and in-depth analysis of a particular idea, issue, or argument, which will serve as the basis for your eventual term paper. In all likelihood, your think piece will emerge from one of the response pieces you wrote or one of the in-class discussions we had, but also feel free to do something completely new if that's what you'd prefer.

Your think piece should begin with a standard introduction, indicating the issue you'll be discussing and the thesis you'll be putting forward. Following this, the bulk of your think piece should consist of your original and in-depth analysis of the particular idea, issue, or argument you've chosen to discuss. At the end of your think piece (in the last 100 words or so), you should indicate where you want

to go from here and how you intend to go about this (i.e., how you think your think piece can be turned into a term paper).

The topic of your think piece is up to you; however, keep in mind these guidelines for your eventual term paper:

- » **at least 50% of your term paper must deal with beauty/aesthetics** (thus you may write a paper relating, say, Aristotle's remarks on beauty to his remarks on politics, but not a paper which is *primarily* on Aristotle's politics); and
- » **at least 50% of your term paper must deal with ancient thinkers** (thus you may write a paper comparing, say, Plato's and Heidegger's aesthetics, but not a paper which is *primarily* on Heidegger)

In other words, your term paper must be a term paper on beauty in ancient Greek philosophy, though not exclusively on beauty in ancient Greek philosophy. Your think piece should exhibit a similar focus.

And remember: this is a think piece! You don't need to (and probably shouldn't) have every little thing worked out just yet. It is perfectly acceptable for your think piece to end in puzzlement, or scepticism, or frustration – just be sure to explain *why* you're puzzled or sceptical or frustrated. Rest assured, I will help you find a way forward. And you'll have plenty of space in your term paper to make things better!

### *Formatting*

**Please prepare your think piece for blind grading:** the only piece of identifying information should be your student number; please do not include your name. Other than that, you may format your think piece however you wish, but please keep in mind that it is going to be read by another human. A legible font, ample margins, and appropriate line spacing will all be appreciated.

Textual citations of Plato or Aristotle should indicate the work title (in italics) and line number, as in “(*Phaedo* 100c)” or “(*Nicomachean Ethics* 1098b14)”. Citations of secondary literature should follow some standard citation style of your choosing.

### *Turning it in*

Please email your think piece in PDF format to [willie.costello@mail.utoronto.ca](mailto:willie.costello@mail.utoronto.ca) by 11:59 P.M. on Friday, February 27.

Late papers will be docked 10% if handed in within the first 24 hours after the due date, and 5% for each subsequent 24 hour period after that (unless accompanied by valid documentation, found here: [www.illnessverification.utoronto.ca](http://www.illnessverification.utoronto.ca)). Late papers may be submitted up to 7 days after the due date; any papers not received by this time will automatically receive a 0.

### *Grading*

Your think piece will be graded on quality of analysis, cogency of argument, and clarity of writing. The grading rubric I will be using will be made available on the course website.

Also be aware that after your think piece is submitted to me, it will also be forwarded to one of your classmates, who will use your think piece as the subject of their peer review. (At the same time, you will receive another classmate's think piece and do the same.) All think pieces will be kept anonymous for the purposes of peer review, and peer reviewers will be randomly assigned.